far-flung, remote, hilly, inaccessible and tribal areas, inhabited by substantial number of poor people. The State Governments/UT Administrations agreed to implement it and under the RPDS, they were requested to open additional fair price shops in places unserved or underserved, issue ration cards to population left uncovered, create or hire storage space for stocking of foodgrains in the interior areas, making arrangements for doorstep delivery of PDS items to the fair price shops, set up Advisory/Vigilance Committees at the FPS level to prevent diversion and monitor supply and distribution of commodities etc. The thrust of RPDS is to improve the reach of the PDS in desert, drought prone, hilly and tribal areas.

Cases registered under Essential Commodities Act

1463. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Wil the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of raids conducted till 30th April, 1993 by States/Union Territories against hoarders, blackmarketeers and profiteers during the year 1992-93 under the Essential Commodities Act; and

(b) the total number of persons prosecuted thereunder indicating the number of those who were arrested and the price of goods confiscated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) During the period 1-1-92 to 31-3-93 State Governments/U.T. Administrations have reported that the following action has been taken by them under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 :

(i) No. of raids made	149096
(ii) No. of persons arrested	5610
(iii) No. of persons prosecuted	6573
(iv) Value of goods confiscated	Rs. 2211.51 lakhs.

Discriminatory Policy of CIL

1464. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether representations dated the 22nd and 24th March, 1993 have been received from Coal Mines Officers Association of India, NCL Branch, P. O. Sangrauli, Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh by CIL;

(b) whether the said association has pointed out discriminatory executive policy of the CIL Board adopted on the 22nd December, 1992;

(c) if so, what are their objections to the said policy; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to resolve the differences with the officers on this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) :

(a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

औद्योगिक इकाइयों द्वारा कोयले का आयात

1465. **अजीत जोगी :**
श्री छोटू भाई पटेल :

क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारतीय वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंडल संघ ने सरकार से कोयले की निरंतर कमी को दूर करने के लिए औद्योगिक ईकाइयों को कोयले का निःशुल्क आयात करने की अनुमति देने का अनुरोध किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां तो सरकार को उस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है;

(ग) क्या सरकार भारतीय वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंडल संघ की मांगों पर विचार करेगी; और

(घ) यदि नहीं तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत कुमार पांजा) : (क) जी, हां।

(ख) से (घ) : वर्तमान निर्यात तथा आयात नीति के अंतर्गत कोयले का आयात मुक्त रूप में किया जा सकता है। किंतु इस प्रकार के आयातों के लिए विद्यमान पदों पर आयात शुल्क की अदायगी की जानी अपेक्षित है। कोल इंडिया लि. तथा सिंगरेनी कोलियरीज कंपनी लि. दोनों ही में कोयले के उत्पादन तथा प्रेषण में काफी सुधार आया है। कोककर कोयले का कुछ आयात इस्पात उद्योग द्वारा किया जा रहा है। किंतु अन्य क्षेत्रों में अधिकांशतः कोयले के आयात की आवश्यकता नहीं है क्योंकि उपभोक्ताओं की कुल कोयले की आवश्यकताओं की समग्र पूर्ति के लिए कोयला कंपनियों के पास पर्याप्त भंडार उपलब्ध हैं।

Export of coal to Bangladesh from Meghalaya

1466. SHRI G. G. SWELL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) since when the plan of exporting coal from Meghalaya to Bangladesh has been in operation ;

(b) what is the quantum of coal exported so far including the amount of foreign exchange earned so far ;

(c) the number and the names of the coal transhipment centres on the border ;

(d) whether it is a fact that under-invoicing is taken place on a large scale ; and

(e) whether Government have a monitoring machinery to ensure the actual physical transfer of coal at the border ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Investment of BCCL on sinks upgradation Plant

1467. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) invested a sum of Rs. 3.25 crores in a sinks upgradation plant constructed by Engineers Projects Indian Limited (EPIL) in 1983;

(b) whether the plant has been commissioned, if so, when ;

(c) if the plant has not so far been commissioned, what are the reasons therefor ;

(d) what has been the total loss incurred by BCCL so far on this account ;

(e) what are the names of persons responsible for this loss; and

(f) what action Government have taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA) : (a) to (c) Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., had awarded a turn-key contract in April 1976 to M/s. Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. (a Government of India Undertaking) for construction of sinks upgradation plant at Dugda-II washery for an amount of Rs. 3.32 crores (exclusive of taxes and duties). The plant construction which was scheduled to have been completed in September, 1978 was actually completed in October, 1983 after a delay of five years. However, due to certain design deficiencies which could not be rectified by the turn-key contractor, the plant has not been commissioned.

(d) to (f) The Bharat Coking Coal Limited has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 3.25 crores on the plant. Since this plant was located in between Dugda-I and II washery complexes, some equipment facilities of this plant are being utilised by these washeries. The coal company are making efforts for gainfully utilising the remaining equipment facilities avaliable in this plant.